

solid and sure foundation of future empire ; and if our acts manifest a thorough and enlightened appreciation of this truth, a few years of progress in our present direction will inevitably give us a leading position in the affairs of this continent.

And here it is proper to call attention to a peculiar fact of our condition—a fact which is beginning to attract the notice of the most sagacious and thoughtful minds of the State, and which ought to be known to all the people.

While North-Carolina is one of the oldest States in North America, she has to-day more undeveloped resources than any of her sisters.

On her soil were planted some of the first permanent settlements within the territory lately embraced by the United States, and when the Federal Government was established, North-Carolina constituted a prominent member of the original thirteen confederates.

Unlike many parts of the world considered desirable for the settlement of man, the country embraced within the limits of the State did not present to the eye of commercial or industrial enterprise any one obvious or tempting attraction ; and the central position of the State, its desirable climate, and various other circumstances, not necessary here to mention, caused it to be occupied by permanent settlers.

Hence, its inhabitants were of a varied character ; and this fact, combining with the diversity of natural interests demanding attention, was one leading cause of the backwardness of the State in what is called the progress of modern times.

The people were not all impelled in one direction by any one obvious and promising means of wealth ; their imaginations were not intoxicated or their energies stimulated by the allurements of some one tempting resource easily made available by the rudest labor.

The progress of a community so situated will apparently, at least, be necessarily slow ; but if it advances at all, it